

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL- ]

## **Shrimp Virus Workshop**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a workshop sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA; Office of Science and Technology Policy). The JSA includes representatives from Federal organizations including the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of the workshop is to develop a qualitative ecological risk assessment of the potential impacts of shrimp viruses on cultured shrimp and on wild shrimp populations in the Gulf of Mexico and southeastern U.S. Atlantic coastal waters. The workshop will also develop recommendations for conducting a future, more comprehensive risk assessment.

**DATES:** The workshop will begin on Wednesday, January 7, 1998, at 8:30 a.m. and end on Thursday, January 8, 1998, at 5:00 p.m. Members of the public may attend as observers.

**ADDRESSES:** The workshop will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. To make hotel reservations, please call the hotel directly at 703-920-3230 by December 29, 1997. Reference the EPA shrimp virus workshop to receive the group rate. Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), an EPA contractor, is providing logistical support for the workshop. To attend the workshop as an observer, register by calling the ERG conference registration line at (781) 674-7374 by December 31, 1997, and reference the shrimp virus workshop. There is no charge for attending the workshop; however, seating is limited.

Background information provided to workshop panelists includes a document containing a report on the shrimp virus problem and the minutes of several public meetings at which the report was reviewed. Printed copies will be available on or about January 31, 1998. To obtain a single copy of this document, interested parties should contact the Center for Environmental Research Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268, Tel: (513) 569-7562, FAX: (513) 569-7566. Please provide your name and mailing address, and request the document by the EPA number (EPA/600/R-97/136) and title, Minutes of the Stakeholder Meetings on the Report of the JSA Shrimp Virus Work Group. In addition, portions of this report are available on the internet, at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/svra.htm>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For technical information, contact Dr. Thomas McIlwain, Chairperson of the JSA Shrimp Virus Work Group, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3209 Frederick Street, Pascagoula, MS 39567, (601) 762-4591. For workshop information, contact Dr. Bill van der Schalie, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (8623), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, Telephone (202) 260-4191; FAX: 202-260-6370; e-mail: vanderschalie.william@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Evidence suggests that exotic shrimp viruses may be inadvertently introduced into U.S. coastal regions. If established, these introduced viruses have the potential to infect both wild shrimp stocks and shrimp in aquaculture. To address this problem the JSA has been developing an ecological risk assessment. In support of information exchange and education, and to determine any necessary course of action to avert the introduction of pathogenic viruses, the JSA tasked a Federal interagency work group (Shrimp Virus Work Group; SVWG) with preparing a report that summarizes readily-available risk-relevant information on shrimp viruses [see Federal Register 62(112):31790-31791 (June 11, 1997)]. This SVWG report was approved by the JSA and was reviewed at several stakeholder meetings in July 1997. The minutes of these meetings, the SVWG report, and additional stakeholder comments received in conjunction with the release of the report and the stakeholder meetings are the starting points for a peer-review workshop being conducted under contract to the

EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment, in cooperation with the JSA. The goals of this workshop are to develop a qualitative ecological risk assessment of the potential impacts of shrimp viruses on cultured shrimp and on wild shrimp populations in the Gulf of Mexico and southeastern U.S. Atlantic coastal waters and to develop recommendations for conducting a future, more comprehensive risk assessment. Workshop results will provide one source of information for a proposed JSA-sponsored risk management workshop on the shrimp virus problem and may be useful in supporting environmental decisionmaking.

12/9/97

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Dated

/S/ William H. Farland

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Director  
National Center for Environmental Assessment

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